

THE CLEVELAND
MUSEUM OF ART
11150 EAST
BOULEVARD
CLEVELAND, OHIO
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**Mildred Constantine to speak at Art Museum; additional events complement
*Small Works in Fiber: The Collection of Mildred Constantine***

Renowned scholar and writer Mildred Constantine, who has recently donated about fifty fiber works from her collection to The Cleveland Museum of Art, will speak here on Sunday, January 31, at 2:30 pm. Her topic--based in part on the twenty-three years she served in curatorial positions at New York's Museum of Modern Art--is the unique role of a curator in a museum or collection of contemporary art--"more outgoing than ingoing," Miss Constantine says, than curatorship in other areas. She will call on the artists present who are represented in **Small Works in Fiber: The Collection of Mildred Constantine** (on view January 27 through March 28, 1993) to discuss their own work. At least six will be at the Museum for the event: Joyce Crain, Sheila Hicks, Kiyomi Iwata, Glen Kaufman, Patricia Malarcher, and Ethel Stein.

Miss Constantine has devoted much of her distinguished career to a campaign--sometimes behind the scenes and sometimes smack in the middle of MoMA's main special exhibition galleries--to raise the consciousness of art historians, art critics, and the museum-going public that there should be no false distinctions between major and minor arts, that although fiber artists work in media conventionally described as craft, their products are works of art which hold their own with paintings and sculpture. Among the numerous publications she has authored or co-authored are *Beyond Craft: The Art Fabric* (1973) and *The Art Fabric: Mainstream* (1986). She currently serves as a consultant in art, architecture, and design to museums, universities, and industry.

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On the opening night of the exhibition, Wednesday, January 27, at 7:00 pm, Christina Cassara, associate professor and chairperson in the fiber department at The Cleveland Institute of Art, will lecture on "Mildred Constantine's Gifts: Nourishing the Spirit." Ms. Cassara's title alludes to Miss Constantine's gift to the fiber movement of her particular vision of what constitutes art, and the artists' gifts of their works to her. Some works in the exhibition--Ed Rossbach's *Mickey Mouse* of 1969, Aurelia Muñoz's *Essay #2* of 1974, Glen Kaufman's *White Maize Glove* and Sheila Hicks' *Ephemera Bundle* of 1975, for example--are classics in fiber art; she will talk about these and what followed them.

Ms. Cassara is a graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University, and received her MFA in fiber at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Her professional activities have included research in Peru and Bolivia on pre-Columbian textiles and the role of weaving in contemporary life.

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The following talks will be given by fiber artist Barbara Kathman of the Museum's department of education and public programs:

Wed/Jan 27/2:15 pm	Gallery Lecture
Wed/Feb 3/2:15 pm	Slide Lecture on "Contemporary Textiles"
Wed/Mar 3/1:30 pm	Gallery Talk
Sun/Mar 7/1:30 pm	Gallery Talk, accompanied by an interpreter for visitors who are deaf or hearing-impaired

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